

IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:)	Case No. 19-156
)	
Chad A. Steckel,)	License No. 210030
)	
Respondent.)	FINAL ORDER
)	

1. The Respondent holds a Master Educator License (FOLDER # 210030) with the following endorsements: K-12 Athletic Coach, K-6 Teacher Elementary Classroom, K-8 Physical Education, 5-12 Physical Education, 5-12 Driver and Safety Education. Respondent's license is current and will next expire on May 31, 2020. Respondent also holds a Professional Administrator License which expired on May 31, 2020 and an expired Class B License.
2. During all material events of this case, Respondent was employed as a Elementary Principal with the Eastern Allamakee School District.
3. On October 28, 2019, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging various violations. On February 21, 2020, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth herein and delineated in further detail within the complaint and investigation file compiled by the Board.
4. The Board charged Respondent with sexual involvement or indecent contact with a student – fondling or touching the inner thigh, groin, buttocks, anus or breasts of a student; permitting or causing to fondle or touch the practitioner's inner thigh, groin, buttocks, anus, or breasts; or the commission of any sex act as defined in Iowa Code section 702.17, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(c); sexual exploitation of a minor – The commission of or any conviction for an offense prohibited by Iowa Code section 728.12, Iowa Code chapter 709 or 18 U.S.C. Section 2252A(a)(5)(B), in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(d); committing or soliciting any sexual or otherwise indecent act with a student or any minor, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(3); soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4); failing to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the student or creating conditions harmful to student learning, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(6)(c).
5. Pursuant to Board rule, a practitioner may voluntarily surrender the practitioner's license if the practitioner waives the right to hearing before the Board and notifies

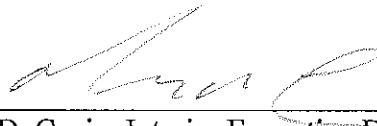
the Board of the intent to accept a permanent revocation of the practitioner's license. Upon receipt of a voluntary surrender, "[t]he Board may issue an order permanently revoking the practitioner license" 282 I.A.C. 11.4(6).

6. On June 22, 2020, the Respondent filed a Surrender of Practitioner License and Waiver of Formal Hearing form. The voluntary surrender was presented to and accepted by the Board at a meeting held on June 26, 2020.

ORDER

THEREFORE, the Board acknowledges the Respondent's voluntary surrender of his practitioner license and incorporates his action into this Order by attaching a copy of the surrender to this Order. In accordance with this filing, all licenses issued by the Board to the Respondent and his privilege to practice in Iowa are **PERMANENTLY REVOKED** with no possibility of reinstatement.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2020.



Michael D. Cavin, Interim Executive Director
On behalf of the Board

Copies to:

Chad A. Steckel (first-class mail and certified mail)
RESPONDENT

Jesse Ramirez (electronic mail)
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE

IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0147

RECEIVED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
JUN 22 2020

**SURRENDER OF PRACTITIONER LICENSE AND
WAIVER OF FORMAL HEARING**

I, Chad Steckel (BoEE Folder No. 210030), swear and affirm under oath;

that I currently hold a valid or expired Iowa practitioner's license issued by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners;

that I have been informed of and understand the nature of proceedings before the Board and have received a copy of the rules governing Board proceedings (282 Iowa Administrative Code chapters 11 and 25);

that I am aware that the Board has legal authority to sanction me as a licensed individual only following a formal allegation of conduct violating Board rules, an investigation into the allegation of misconduct, and a hearing at which I have a right to be heard, present evidence, and to contest all allegations against me;

that I am aware I have the right to be represented by counsel in this matter;

that I understand my license surrender is subject to the approval of the Board and will have no force or effect if it is not accepted by the Board;

that I understand State's counsel will present this document to the Board *ex parte*;

that I understand that by waiving my right to formal accusation and hearing, I give up my right to challenge the allegations against me and all attendant rights, including the right to appeal or seek judicial review of the Board's actions, and that as a consequence of surrendering my license my privilege to teach, administer, coach, and/or otherwise practice as a licensee in Iowa will be permanently revoked with no possibility of reinstatement;

that I understand that if the Board accepts my license surrender an Order permanently revoking my license will be issued and the Board will notify NASDTEC ("The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification") National Clearinghouse that my license has been revoked and that other state teacher licensing boards will have access to this information;

that I understand that this license surrender and any Board order permanently revoking my license are public records, which will become part of my permanent licensure file and will be available for public inspection and reproduction.

HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED MY RIGHTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE, I hereby formally waive my right to a formal accusation and hearing before the Board and request that my license(s) to teach, administer, coach, and/or otherwise practice as a licensee of the Board of Educational Examiners in Iowa be revoked. I affirm that my decision is made voluntarily and knowingly.

Chad Steckel
Practitioner Signature

June 22, 2020
Date

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF IOWA**

In the matter of)	Case No. 19-156
)	Folder No. 210030
CHAD STECKEL,)	
)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Respondent.)	AND STATEMENT OF CHARGES

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, exercising the jurisdiction conferred by Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272, has found probable cause of a violation of Board rules and ordered this matter scheduled for hearing.

A. TIME, PLACE AND NATURE OF HEARING

1. Hearing will be held on Monday, June 29, 2020, before Administrative Law Judge Emily Kimes-Schwiesow, acting on behalf of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. The hearing shall begin at 9:00 a.m. in Department of Inspections and Appeals, Wallace State Office Bldg, Third Floor, 502 E. 9th Street (East 9th and Grand Avenue), Des Moines, Iowa. You should report to the third floor Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) receptionist prior to 9:00 a.m. to obtain the room assignment.

2. Answer. Within twenty (20) days of the date of service of this Notice of Hearing, you are required to file an Answer specifically admitting, denying, or otherwise responding to the allegations included within the Factual Allegations. In that Answer, you should also state whether you will require an adjustment of the date and time of the hearing. A copy of the Answer shall be provided by the Respondent to the Assistant Attorney General identified below.

3. Hearing Procedures. The procedural rules governing the conduct of the hearing are found at 282 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11. At hearing, you may appear personally or be represented by an attorney, at your own expense. You will be allowed the opportunity to respond to the charges against you. Each party will be allowed to testify, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and present documentary evidence. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Board may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and render a decision in your absence. If you need to request an alternative time or date for hearing, you must comply with the requirements of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.19.

If either party wishes to present telephonic testimony or to participate in the hearing by telephone, arrangements must be made at least ten (10) days in advance of the hearing date by filing a written request with the presiding Administrative Law Judge, Department of Inspections and Appeals, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, or by faxing a written request to (515) 281-4477. A copy of the

request for telephonic testimony must be served on the Board and all parties. Any resistance to the request for telephone testimony must be filed within five (5) days of service of the notice.

4. Pre-hearing conference. Either party may request a pre-hearing conference to discuss evidentiary issues related to the hearing. The Board rules regarding pre-hearing conferences are found in 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.18.

5. Prosecution. The office of the Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting and representing the public interest (the State) in this proceeding. Pleadings shall be filed with the Board and copies should be provided to counsel for the State at the following address:

Jesse Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Iowa Department of Justice
2nd Floor, Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Telephone (515) 281-3395

6. Communications. You may not contact Board members by phone, letter, facsimile, e-mail, or in person about this Notice of Hearing or the pending charges. Board members may only receive information about the case when all parties have notice and an opportunity to participate, such as at the hearing or in pleadings you file with the Board office and serve on all parties in the case. You should direct any questions about this proceeding to Michael D. Cavin, the Board's Interim Executive Director, at (515) 281-5849 or to Assistant Attorney General Ramirez at (515) 281-3395.

B. SECTIONS OF STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

Count I

7. Respondent is charged with Sexual involvement or indecent contact with a student – fondling or touching the inner thigh, groin, buttocks, anus or breasts of a student; permitting or causing to fondle or touch the practitioner's inner thigh, groin, buttocks, anus, or breasts; or the commission of any sex act as defined in Iowa Code section 702.17, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(c).

Count II

8. Respondent is charged with Sexual exploitation of a minor – The commission of or any conviction for an offense prohibited by Iowa Code section 728.12, Iowa Code chapter 709 or 18 U.S.C. Section 2252A(a)(5)(B), in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(d).

Count III

9. Respondent is charged with Committing or soliciting any sexual or otherwise indecent act with a student or any minor, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(3).

Count IV

10. Respondent is charged with Soliciting, encouraging, or consummating a romantic or otherwise inappropriate relationship with a student, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(1)(e)(4).

Count V

11. Respondent is charged with Failing to make reasonable effort to protect the health and safety of the student or creating conditions harmful to student learning, in violation of 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 25.3(6)(c).

C. JURISDICTION AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

12. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272. If any of the allegations against you are proven at hearing, the Board has authority to take disciplinary action against you under Iowa Code chapters 17A and 272, and 282 Iowa Administrative Code chapter 11.

D. FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

13. Respondent holds a Master Educator License and Professional Administrator License (FOLDER # 210030) with the following endorsements: K-12 Athletic Coach; K-6 Teacher Elementary Classroom; K-8 Physical Education; 5-12 Physical Education; 5-12 Driver and Safety Education; PK-8 Principal; Evaluator Approval; PK-12 Principal/PK-12 Special Education Supervisor; Evaluator (new). The Master Educator license is current and will next expire on 5/31/2021. The Professional Administrator License is current and will expire on 5/31/2020.

14. During all material events of this case, Respondent was employed as a Elementary Principal with the Eastern Allamakee School District.

15. On October 28, 2019, the Board of Educational Examiners received a complaint against Respondent alleging various violations. On February 21, 2020, the Board found probable cause to proceed to hearing based upon the facts set forth herein and delineated in further detail within the complaint and investigation file compiled by the Board.

16. Investigation revealed that on or about the years 1995 through 1997 the Respondent groomed, solicited, and ultimately had a sexual relationship with a minor student. That the Respondent did touch the student inappropriately. That the

Respondent had inappropriate conversations with the student centered around sex. That the Respondent did commit a sex act on several occasions as defined in Iowa Code section 702.17.

E. SETTLEMENT

17. This matter may be resolved by surrender of your license or an agreement to accept a lesser sanction. The procedural rules governing the Board's settlement process are found at 282 Iowa Administrative Code rule 11.4(6). If you are interested in pursuing settlement of this matter, please contact the Assistant Attorney General identified in Section A, above.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2020.



Michael D. Cavin, Interim Executive Director
Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Copies to:

Chad Steckel (first-class mail and restricted certified mail)
RESPONDENT

Jesse Ramirez (electronic mail)
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE